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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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FROM : EMBASSY, MANILA

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DISP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

October 16, 1956

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SUBJECT: COMEL Dworshak

1. Senator Henry C. DWORSHAK (R-Idaho) arrived in Manila at 4:30 a.m., Sunday, October 7, 1956. The day was spent in sight-seeing in Manila and its environs.

2. The Senator was accompanied by Harry A. BRENN, USOM Director; Basil Capella, Embassy Central Officer; and Ward B. MELOAN, USOM Information Officer. The party left Manila in the Air Attache's plane. The first stop was Clark Air Force Base. Here the Senator was given a comprehensive briefing on the activities of the 13th Air Force by its commander, General ACKERMAN, and his aides. Following the briefing, the Senator was taken on an inspection tour of the base to give him a thorough understanding of the installation's operations and needs. In line with his request he was shown "both the good and the bad": termite-infested temporary buildings which comprise an overwhelming portion of the base's housing (and hospital) as well as a few modern, permanent structures. He was also taken on a tour of the nearby city of Angeles which serves as the main attraction for military personnel stationed at Clark. The Senator felt that more pressure should be placed on the Mayor to clean up the town.

3. Particular attention was paid to the hospital facility and the service it affords to the entire southeast Asian area, for both military and civilian personnel. In this connection, as well as at many other appropriate times during the Senator's visit, stress was laid on the smooth functioning and accomplishments in the Philippines under the "country team" concept. Numerous examples were given of how the ICA program is coordinated with those of the Embassy, the Air Force, the Navy and JUSMAG to achieve greater total results than could have been obtained with each operating independently.

4. The Senator was most understanding of this operation and expressed gratification that the "country team" policy was working so well here.

5. After lunch and further inspection, the party left about 2 p.m. aboard the Air Force plane for San Fernando, La Union, to visit the Pere Point broadcasting station. This facility impressed the Senator greatly, and he appeared well informed on VOA activities and objectives. He commented particularly on the physical condition of the facility -- the orderly operation, cleanliness and general "housekeeping" efficiency. William HARMON, officer in charge of the Baguio and Pere Point installation, then escorted the party to Baguio by automobile. They were met by Colonel BARTHELMESS, Clark Base commander who also has jurisdiction

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over the John Hay facility, and Lieutenant Colonel BECK, John Hay commanding officer, both of whom explained the functions of this base as an essential rest and recreation facility for both military and civilian personnel from all points in Southeast Asia, particularly convalescing hospital cases from Clark.

6. After dinner at the John Hay Officers' Mess, at which Mr. CAPELLA was host, the Senator visited the VOA receiving station, where he made comments similar to those during his afternoon visit at Pero Point. He watched the station's operation for more than an hour, learning how it receives stateside broadcasts and relays them to the Pero broadcaster. He was highly interested in a demonstration of Soviet jamming of a broadcast from the Okinawa transmitter, and asked numerous questions about VOA's steps to counteract such jamming.

7. The following morning, after spending the night at the Embassy residence at Camp John Hay, Baguio, the party flew by Philippine Air Force plane to Lingayen, Pangasinan province, where they were met by Governor Conrado ESTRELLA and several of his department chiefs, for a tour of rural improvement projects in the province.

8. During the day the party visited a schoolhouse constructed by barrio residents themselves with no governmental assistance, a community school project, a large barrio road project in which all labor and local materials are contributed by the people themselves, assisted by one piece of ICA-supplied heavy equipment for which the provincial treasury provides POL costs; a small-industry local candy factory, the provincial agricultural nursery (where lunch was served by the home demonstrators), and several agricultural extension activities which showed the various types of accomplishments of the Bureau of Agriculture which was sponsored and is still assisted by ICA. Agriculture Extension

9. The next morning the Senator together with the Ambassador, Mr. Brenn and Mr. Capella breakfasted with President Magsaysay at Malacanang Palace. The conversation during the ensuing forty-five minutes was light and touched upon a variety of subjects. The President asked Mr. Brenn when he could expect more road building equipment for feeder roads which are so important to the agricultural communities. Mr. Brenn replied that considerable equipment had been included in the 1956 and 1957 budgets and that part of this should be received soon.

The President also asked the Ambassador where we stood on the PL 480 negotiations. The Ambassador stated that we were now waiting on the Philippines to list their requirements. The President said that one of their requirements would be for cotton.

The President was most emphatic in his statements regarding the pro-American position of the Philippine Government and its people. He declared that there were no more than a dozen or so influential people who were really anti-American. He recalled how the Americans had fed and assisted the Filipinos after the war. He regretted that much of the surplus property, particularly road building equipment and other heavy machinery, had been dissipated by the administration in power in the Philippines at that time and sold

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to selfish interests without regard to the needs of the people. The President went on to state that democracy to him meant schools, water wells, roads, and other services for the people; that the Americans had these for themselves and that the Filipinos would continue to work for such; that regardless of whether they did or did not receive American aid, they would always be pro-American; that America need have no fear that the Filipinos would follow the bargaining tactics employed by other so-called neutralist Asian nations.

At one point in the conversation, when discussing the relative population figures for Japan and the Philippines and the need of the former to expand, the President stated that we should watch out for Japan about ten to fifteen years from now. He thought that American dollars might well be better invested in the Philippines than in Japan.

The Senator was very much impressed with the President and expressed the wish that there could be more like him throughout Asia.

10. Following breakfast the Senator visited the Chancery where he was briefed on the political, economic and military situation in the Philippines by the Political and Economic Counselors and by the Chairman, JUSMAG, Major General HARPER.

He then made a hurried tour through the Regional Reproduction Center at Seafont. He was accompanied by Mr. COPELAND, Public Affairs Officer, and Mr. BARTLETT, Assistant Director of RPC. The Senator was very much interested in this facility because of his own background as a newspaper publisher and because of what he had seen and heard of the work done by RPC throughout his tour.

11. In the early afternoon the Senator was briefed on the operations of the Veterans Administration by Mr. William TATE, Assistant Manager, and Mr. MOORE, Personnel Officer. He also visited briefly the Veterans Memorial Hospital at Quezon City.

12. Afterwards, the Senator accompanied by Minister Horace SMITH, the Naval Attache and the Control Officer, visited the Subic Bay Naval facility. Rear Admiral DONAHUE conducted the party on a tour of the base which included a drive through the worst section of the town of Alangape.

13. That evening the Senator attended a black-tie dinner at the Palace. The dinner was given by the President in honor of Minister and Mrs. Charles BURROWS who departed the Philippines the next day. The President gave the Senator a beautiful cane inscribed to "Senator Dvorshak from President Magsaysay".

14. The Senator departed at 11:30 a.m.

Throughout his visit the Senator appeared to be impressed with what he saw and was often complimentary. He asked intelligent questions all along the way and seemed sincerely interested and understanding. It is believed that he

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made a good impression upon all who met him. Most persons commented upon his evident interest, his quiet and common sense approach. The contrast between his statements and Senator ELLENDER's was very noticeable and won for him most favorable comments everywhere, including the press.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

Basil Capella
Basil Capella
Administrative Officer

Enclosure:

Program for Visit of Senator
Dworshak October 7 - 10, 1956.

This is interesting

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